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WPSR

British Keep One Eye On Vote, Other on Russia

Reuters

LONDON, Oct. 15—British Government leaders—watching the results of the nation's general election—tonight were flashed the news of the resignation of Nikita S. Khrushchev as Soviet Communist leader and Premier.

Officials in London said Conservative Prime Minister Douglas-Home and Foreign Secretary R. A. Butler were informed of the news of Khrushchev's resignation as early results became known of the election.

Both Douglas-Home and opposition Labor Party leader Harold Wilson have met in the past with Khrushchev. The election programs of both British parties have emphasized the importance of disarmament and other negotiations with the Soviet Union aimed at further lessening of East-West tension.

Consultations Seen

Diplomatic observers here expected early close Western consultations to assess the implications on East-West relations of Khrushchev's replacement as party secretary by Leonid Brezhnev and as premier by Alexei Kosygin.

The observers said Western diplomats also would carefully watch the reaction of Communist China to the resignation, particularly in the context of the Sino-Soviet ideological dispute.

The British Government was expected to send messages of good wishes to the new Soviet leaders.

Meetings Recalled

Douglas-Home met Khrushchev in August, 1963, when he was in Moscow to sign the nuclear test ban treaty.

Butler met him in July during a short official visit to Moscow.

John Gollan, general secretary of the British Communist Party, said the leadership change would make no difference to the policies of

the British Communist Party. Teeming rain and mist shrouded the Soviet Embassy in London's Kensington Palace Gardens—"Millionaires' Row"—tonight.

Embassy Dark

There were no lights shining from the two-story building, which was in darkness apart from two outside lights illuminating the entrance.

Observers here recalled that Kosygin headed a small delegation to London in 1955 to study production methods and output of British light industry.

It was the first time a Soviet delegation dealing with consumer goods had visited Britain since World War II.